

Build a FOD Station

FOD is a problem all the time. FOD cans are a problem only when you can't find one, or when it's been blown over by the wind and is rolling around the airfield.

You can overcome these problems by making your own FOD stations that won't blow over, that double as temporary storage for contaminated fuel and that are a fire extinguisher point. Here's how:

Start with an empty 55-gal oil drum. Cut off the top with a drum cutter, NSN 4910-00-478-6982. Never use a cutting torch to remove the top because the torch could start a fire.

Clean the inside of the drum with cleaning solvent.

Then, mix up about half of an 80-lb bag of pre-mixed concrete, NSN 5610-00-985-1800, and put it in the bottom of the drum. Tilt the drum slightly while the concrete hardens.

After the concrete hardens, drill a few drainage holes just above the low side of the concrete. That will keep the water from collecting in the drum.

Next, add a receptacle cover, NSN 7240-00-783-1044. Install the cover's access door so that it must be lifted to open—that makes it easier to insert and remove things from the container.

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Paint a 5-gal military fuel can yellow and mark it "CONTAMINATED FUEL." Put it inside the FOD station. You can store fuel test samples in it for disposal later.

Use an old, topless 5-gal oil can to hold FOD junk. You should mark it "FOD" and store it inside the FOD station beside the

contaminated fuel can. The FOD junk stays inside the can even if you fill it to overflowing.

You can get a 20-lb dry chemical fire extinguisher with NSN 4210-00-257-5343. It comes with its own mounting bracket that can be attached to the side of the FOD drum. Secure

the fire extinguisher in the bracket and mark the outside of the drum with FOD FIRE POINT.

Your FOD station and fire point is ready for use. It is heavy enough so it won't blow over and has a removable FOD container that can be taken out on the flight line to pick up FOD junk.

